

GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

January 11, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

I want to wish you the best of luck tomorrow as you deliver maps drawn by Maryland's Citizens Redistricting Commission to your State Legislature.

I've been on a mission to terminate gerrymandering since I was governor of California and saw the terrible impact caused by politicians who are allowed to pick their voters. I can't tell you how many times I heard, "that's a great idea, Governor, but I can't bring it back to my district" before we decided to return the power to the people. Since our reform went into effect, California's independent commission has produced fantastic results. Our state legislature's approval rating has skyrocketed now that they actually have to answer to their voters, and competitiveness in our Congressional districts has increased exponentially.

Even though the decision didn't go our way, I was proud to stand with you at the Supreme Court a few years ago demanding an end to partisan gerrymandering in every state. I will continue to campaign against any gerrymander - from our own party or from the Democrats - as long as I live. Maryland's gerrymander is an ugly one, and the vast majority of your citizens oppose it. I hope the Maryland Legislature will listen to their constituents and pass fair maps, and serve as public servants instead of party servants.

Whatever happens, though, I want you to know that I stand with you. You're going to get some beatings, believe me. When we created our redistricting commission in California, both parties campaigned against me, and I heard it all. What the Democrats called a "Republican power grab" ended up electing more Democrats, and in hindsight, I think they realize they were on the wrong side of history.

I'm proud to be with you on the right side. Let's terminate gerrymandering in Maryland and all over the United States.

